

distribution and such other committees as your work may require. Then let each active member become an evangelist. Do personal work both before and after services. Keep in touch with your pastor, and help him to be in touch with all inquirers. Make all inquirers acquainted with your pastor. Relate your experiences and thus be helpful to one another.

By the use of these suggestions and others that will arise in the course of your work, the society may indeed become the pastor's assistant; and not only will his burden be lightened and the society strengthened, but many persons will be brought to Christ and received into the church.

Notes at Random

The "On Timer's Tribe" is the name of a new weekly published in Denver, Colorado. The name is self-explanatory, and its need is obvious. It is to be hoped that its circulation will become general, and its influence none less so.

The Quiet Hour

Have you joined the Comrades of the Quiet Hour? Why not do so? How many of our readers will promise to set apart at least fifteen minutes every day, if possible in the early morning, for quiet meditation and direct communion with God? No names will be reported but the number will be reported to this page. The subject for meditation during the present month is "The Abundant Life."

Add a Step

A young Greek soldier once complained to his general that his sword was short. "Well," said the general, "Add a step to it." How suggestive this incident is. How many have excused themselves from Christian service, with the complaint that they are short of money, short of time—short of opportunity, short of ability, etc. If such be the case, *add a step to what you have*. We can not do more than we can do. But how can we know how much we can do, until we put our whole soul into the doing. Do what St. Paul commanded Timothy to do: "Stir up the gift that is in thee."

A Suggestion from "Forward"

The minutes of waiting in church that each of us spend can be made times of great profit. Instead of fidgeting and turning about to stare at every new arrival we should make the hymn-book or Bible our companion and embrace the opportunity to commit to memory one of the grand hymns of the church, or to take into our hearts a choice portion of scripture. Moreover, what place is more fitting than God's house for quiet meditation and communion, which are truest worship? If such a habit is formed for the waiting periods in the sanctuary they will become to us seasons of priceless enriching.

For the Leader

Very much depends upon the leader in a young people's service. Many services fail because the leader has failed to prepare himself to lead. But how shall he prepare?

1. Read the scripture lesson before coming to the service. Be prepared to read it so as to give the sense. Do not read too much scripture for a lesson. Two or three verses, if pertinent to the topic are better than an entire chapter. No need to read the whole of Romans 12, when the subject for the evening is, "Consecration." The first two verses are quite enough. Do not overdo a good thing.

2. Select your hymns before coming to the service. Select such as are most fitting to your subject, and such verses of these hymns that will help the service most. Consult with your organist or chorister. Rarely sing an entire hymn. Two stanzas or even one are better than ten. Do not let the singing drag. There are some persons that will run every hymn into a *long metre doxology* or something longer than that. Be on the alert. Do not encourage the promiscuous giving out of hymns by the audience. It is not a good plan. Have a young people's choir if possible, but let the singing be congregational.

3. Prepare your remarks beforehand. Let them be few, fresh, crisp and well chosen. Many meetings are killed by long remarks of a leader. Seldom speak longer than ten minutes. Give all an opportunity. Think the subject over carefully. Read all you can upon it. Then select such thoughts that will suggest and open up thoughts to others. The leader should by his opening address lead and determine the course of thought for the evening. But above all things else *be brief*. To this rule there is no exception.

4. Pray, both before and after the meeting. Pray for wisdom and power and guidance to lead the meeting and then pray God's blessing upon what has been said and done and that He may bless the meeting to His glory and the good of all present.

Let me repeat that very much depends upon the leader. Will you therefore carefully read these suggestions and use them or adapt them to your needs? I am sure that there are some things here to which we can all give heed with profit.

W. D. FURRY.

The Christian Life

God the Soul's Home

I come to see thee once more, my God,
No longer will I roam,
For I have sought the wide world through,
And never found a home.

Though bright and many are the spots
Where I have built a nest,
Yet in the brightest still I pined
For more abiding rest.

For thou hast made this wondrous soul
All for thyself alone;
Ah, send thy sweet transforming grace
To make it more thine own!

The Blessing of Affliction

T. L. Cuyler.

How wonderfully God discovers to His people their perennial comforts and consolations in the flinty places of sore troubles and bereavements! Do we lose our prop-

erty? Then we go up to our divine treasure-keeper and inquire after our soul's investments, and find that they are all safe. Do our fair-weather friends drop away in the dark days of adversity? Then we draw up closer to Him who saith, "I will never forsake thee." Do we bury up under the turf the darling of our crib, or the sweet-voiced wife that filled home with heart melodies, or the dear old mother whose arm-chair was next in sacredness to our family altar? Then our thoughts fasten more closely on that homestead beyond the clouds into which the spoiler never enters. The unseen things become visible. Christ becomes nearer and infinitely dearer. Prayer takes stronger hold on the promises. Faith has a clearer vision; and life becomes more disentangled from the harassing worries and absorptions of worldliness. Probably we were very loath to be driven away into these rock regions of trial. We prayed to be kept out of them; for there is not a living Christian—even the best of them—who covets affliction. But when we were forced into the flinty places of adversity or bereavement how delicious was the honey which faith drew out of the rocks!

The Blessing of Hindrances

J. R. Miller.

Naturally, we all desire an easy life. None of us would choose hardness. Yet the truth is that the easy way is not the path to the best and noblest things in life or character. There is a blessing in hindrances, obstacles, difficulties. They give us opportunities to grow, to develop our latent powers, to acquire self-discipline and learn self-dependence.

We should not quarrel, therefore, with the providence which allots to most of us a goodly share of the experiences which make it hard for us to live well. Every one of us has to move against resistances. We have to row against tides and currents. We have to fight our way thro oppositions.

Until we think closely of the matter, we scarcely realize how widely true this is. It is true of physical life. Every baby born into this world begins at once a struggle for existence. To be victorious and live, or to succumb and die, is the question of every cradle, and only about one-half the babies born live into their teens. After that, until its close, life is a continuous struggle with the manifold forms of physical infirmity. If we live to be old, it must be thro our victoriousness over the increasing antagonism of accident or disease.

The same is true of all mental progress. It must be made against resistance. It is never easy to become a scholar. It takes years and years of hard study to draw out and train the faculties of the mind. A lazy student may have an easy time. He never troubles himself with difficult problems. He lets the hard things alone. But we know what he loses. He evades the cross but misses the blessing. The only path to scholarship, to mental power, is daily victorious struggle.